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EUR RA 4257

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MEMORANDUM

January 2, 1959

To: W/MSC - Mr. Bell ✓
 GER - Mr. Hillenbrand
 WE - Mr. McBride
 BNA - Mr. Willoughby

From: EUR/RA - B. E. L. Timmons

Subject: Actions in re IRBM Program

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The attached self-explanatory draft telgrams have to do with certain actions relating to IRBMs that need to be taken promptly. The only one of the drafts on which Defense has been consulted thus far is the second telegram which conveys the proposed Defense press release, and comments to be made to the NAC. Mr. Quarles has approved the press release except for two or three minor wording changes, but the additional comments to be made by Ambassador Burgess have not yet been considered beyond the working level in Defense.

The basic position on the German question has already been indicated by the Secretary, but we should have a clear Departmental approach on the presentation of this position and on the notification to the NAC before consulting further with Defense.

It would be highly desirable for these messages to go out today or tomorrow. Therefore, I should appreciate your giving the drafts urgent attention and would hope to have your clearance or comments before noon today if at all possible to allow time for Defense clearance this afternoon.

cc: EUR - Mr. Merchant
 S/P - Mr. Smith
 C - Mr. Reinhardt

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Spence DATE 01/16/59

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STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

REF: A. FELTO 1685
B. TOFOL 2110

1. President has approved DOD recommendation for limitation ICBM procurement program. Decision is shown as supplement to record of actions at NSC meeting December 6, as follows:

"The production of land-based ICBMs be limited to the 5 squadrons of TESS and 3 squadrons of JUPITER for which production commitments have already been made, with the understanding that this program may be increased by not to exceed 2 additional squadrons if further NATO requirements are expressed within the next few months and military aid funds therefor can be made available."

2. In accordance Reftel A, Defense has been postponing notice to manufacturers and public release to allow for advance presentation to SAC Perhaps. Since notice to manufacturers can not APT not be delayed much longer, we expect instruct you present matter at January 7 SAC meeting. Text of approved DOD press release and explanatory remarks you might make being sent next following message. Would appreciate earliest any comments USRO and SACBIR may have on proposed presentation.

3. We hope to be able develop response to German approach on ICBMs for transmittal prior to SAC presentation indicated para 2 above. In view of recent

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U.S. conversations with Strauss on this subject, we see no RPT no alternative to general line of presentation to EAC proposed in separate message.

EUR/RA:RNB:agill:emo 12/31/58

Christian A. Harter

Clearances:

EUR - Mr. Merchant
W/MSC - Mr. Bell
WE - Mr. McBride
Defense - Mr. Irwin

C - Mr. Reinhardt
OHR - Mr. Hillenbrand
G - Mr. Murphy

S/P - Mr. Smith
RMA - Mr. Willoughby
RA - Mr. Timmons

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STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

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As indicated refal, following is proposed statement for Ambassador Burgess to make in NAC on January 7:

BEGIN TEXT: "I would like to inform the North Atlantic Council in advance of the following statement which the Department of Defense will be making shortly to the press:

"The Department of Defense announced today the continuation of both THOR and JUPITER intermediate range ballistic missile production until present production contracts have been completed in 1960. Should Free World defenses require additional U.S. IRBMs, a production capability exists to supply them.

"Both of these missiles have successfully demonstrated that they will meet their design objectives and they are being incorporated within the defense structure of the U.S. and also in that of European NATO countries in accordance with the U.S. offer at the NATO Heads of Government meeting in December 1957. Therefore, continuation of both contracts will insure the maximum IRBM capability in the minimum time.

Current production commitments at both the Douglas Aircraft Company, which produces THOR, and Chrysler Corporation, which produces JUPITER will supply sufficient missiles to meet the anticipated U.S., and NATO requirements. Because of the relative limitation on range of these weapons (as opposed

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opposed to that of the ICBM) they were developed and programmed for deployment outside the continental United States. So far as deployment within the continental United States is concerned, the U.S. missile program has relied from the outset on the development of ICBMs, such as the ATLAS.

The U.S. offer to make IRBMs available for deployment in Europe was one response to the Soviet long-range missile threat. It was also with this threat in mind that the United States offered at the NATO Heads of Government meeting to assist in a coordinated program for the European development and production of IRBMs. Discussions on this are still in progress. The United States regards IRBMs and ICBMs as complementary elements of the overall deterrent strength of NATO and the Free World.

During the course of development of THOR and JUPITER each has contributed materially to science and the military missile program. The systems developed for guidance, propulsion and re-entry have been essential steps in the development of U.S. ICBMs. Both THOR and JUPITER have and will continue to be used as vehicles for scientific space exploration.X

additional

"I should like to add a few words for the information of the Council. As you can see, the announcement indicates a termination of the IRBM production program in 1960. Such a termination has, of course, been anticipated since the inception of the THOR and JUPITER IRBM program. There have also been certain recent adjustments in the overall IRBM authorized program. However, the present authorization would enable production of a sufficient number of THOR and JUPITER IRBMs to meet such further deployment needs in Europe as may be

determined

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determined in the near future within SACER's overall requirement of 10 squadrons. The U.S. understands that SACER's requirement might be met by a combination of THOR and JUPITER IRBMs and "second-generation" IRBMs if the latter can be produced on a timely basis. Provision of additional IRBMs by the U.S. for European NATO forces would, of course, be dependent on the availability of adequate Mutual Security Program funds for this purpose." END TEXT

FUR/BA:RHSgill:enc 12/31/58

Christian A. Harter

Clearence:

FOR - Mr. Merchant
W/SEC - Mr. Ball
BA - Mr. Timmons

C - Mr. Reinhardt
GER - Mr. Hillenbrand
WE - Mr. McBride

S/P - Mr. Smith
NSA - Mr. Willoughby
G - Mr. Murphy
Defense - Mr. Irwin

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STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

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1. In final Paris conversation with Strauss re IRMs for Germany, Asst SECDEF Irwin indicated that, although US has some flexibility for time being in IRM production program, question of deployment needs rests entirely with SACUR.
2. We believe it would be desirable for SACUR to convey definitive position to Blakenhorn prior to presentation MAC January 7 discussed Refral in order avoid having this presentation boost German hopes. Suggest SACUR refer his understanding Secretary McElroy's and Irwin's conversations with Strauss. As we understand SACUR sees no RPT no military necessity deploy IRMs in Germany at this time, we suggest he indicate that, despite some flexibility in US production program, he has certain military reservations at this time. If SACUR considers it desirable, he might add (in his CINCEUR capacity) that US also has reservations regarding wisdom of German deployment in current political context. Thurston should advise Embassy Bonn and Dept as soon as conversation with Blakenhorn has taken place.
3. Above emphasis on "at this time" intended to avoid discouragement German interest in participation NATO production of "second-generation" IRMs.

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4. Ambassador Bruce should find early opportunity to support, with both von Brentano and Strauss, line which SACER takes with Blankenhorn.

HRH/BA:RDMagill:cas 12/31/58

Christian A. Harter

Clearances:

HRH - Mr. Merchant
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